construction skills. The loan upto a ceiling of Rs. 9950 and a subsidy upto a ceiling of Rs. 1000 is provided under this scheme to the beneficiaries for housing/shelter upgradation. The scheme is applicable to urban settlements having a population below 20 lakhs.

(v) *The Urban Basic Services for Poor (UBSP):* Aims at creating participatory community based structures through which the community participates in identifying normative felt needs and priorities them for implementation. The programmes aims at providing social services and physical amenities to the urban poor through the convergence of various ongoing sectoral schemes of various Ministries/Departments. It aims to introduce a pro-poor orientation in the design of new programmes and evolves innovative partnership arrangements to fulfil the community's critical needs. The UBSP is being implemented in 283 towns on an all India basis covering approximately 48 lakh urban poor beneficiaries.

(vi) *Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (PM's WPEP);* An integrated scheme for amclicration of poverty known as the Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Pover ty Eradication Programme (PM's IUPEP) was announced on 15th August 1995. The foremost objective of the new programme is to attack several root causes of urban poverty in an integrated manner with an appropriate strategy involving various sectoral programmes of the Central/State Governments as well as Non-Govern mental Organisations (NGOs) by envisag ing participatory implementation of the programme with the aim to eradicate urban poverty in the targetted areas by the end of the century, The specific objectives under the new programme are:— (i) effective acheivement of social sector goals; (ii) community empower ment; (iii) convergence through sustain able support system; (iv) employment generation and skill upgradation; (v) im provement of hygiene and sanitation; and (vi) environmental improvement.

The programme initialy targets the urban poor living in Class-II towns (with a population of 50,000 to less than 1,00,000) which numbers 345 towns as per the 1991 Census.

(b) The targets and achievements for these poverty alleviation programmes during the last three years are enclosed at Statement (see below).

(c) The Government proposes to eradi cate poverty within a specific time frame i.e. by the year 2005, with this objective the strategy of the Government is to review all anti-poverty programmes with a view to redesigning and strengthening them to ensure generation of more em ployment, creation of productive assets and imparting of skills to the poor, in order to enhance their income levels and to bring them above the poverty line.

In addition the Government proposes to strengthen the Minimum Needs Programme (MNP) which emphasises necessary allocation to important social development components which affect the quality of life of the people. Special outlays arc earmarked in the plans of the State Government for these programmes.

In a recent Conference of Chief Ministers on Basic Minimum Scviccs, the provision of seven basic minimum services throughout the country in a time bound manner was endorsed. These basic services which would ensure a better quality of life for the people especially those residing in rural areas, arc:

(i) Hundred per cent coverage of provision of safe drinking water in rural and urban areas.

(ii) Hundred per cent coverage of primary health service facilities in rural and urban areas.

(iii) Univcrsalisation of primary education.

(iv) Provision of Public Housing Assistance to all shelterless poor families.

(v) Extension of Mid-day-Mcal programme in primary schools.